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EDITORIAL

From the Editor
To Comic Book Fans, Fanatics and Friends:

The idea for this publication was born last summer. My comic book shop, The Spider's Web, happened to be the only public liaison to Todd McFarlane. I was receiving 30-40 calls a week from kids and adults wanting to know more about Todd. As Image Comics evolved into a smashing success over the past year, questions about other Image artists began pouring in.

One day, while answering questions from a young man in Ohio, it dawned on me that people are extremely curious about the personal side of a creator's life. And while most publications have offered super insight into comic book-related issues, none have taken a good look at the people behind them.

So Image Plus was created, to give our fans and faithful supporters some answers to their many questions.

If I've learned one thing from this experience, it's that these guys are real people like you and me. The only difference may be their ability to give us such creative visual and literary entertainment.

I've also learned that it's important to remember that all public figures, comic book creators included, are people with feelings, compassion for others and the desire to be treated as equals... not as idols!

Finally, I would like to thank you for taking the time and your hard-earned dollars to purchase Image Plus. I've enjoyed the opportunity to share some insights with you, and I hope that kids of all ages will find this book informative, enlightening and fun!

Kim Kolomyjec

informative and fun !

Todd Dean Mark McFarlane
Birthdate: March 16, 1961
Birthplace:Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Hometown: Portland, OR

Personal Favorites

Movies: The Color Purple, Beaches, When Harry Met Sally
Foods: Mexican, broccoli, artichokes
Restaurants: Any Mexican joint, plus any place that serves broccoli or artichokes
Athletes: Wayne Gretzky, Nolan Ryan, and although I play baseball, hockey is my favorite sport to watch on television.
Comic Artists: Mike Golden, Frank Miller, most everyone at Image
Comic Issue: FF #??... by Len Wein, George Perez and Joe Sinnott.
Comic Character: There are eight or nine characters I'd like to draw. I got a late start in comics at age 18, so I've got more than one... Batman and Bedrock are a few.
Image Character: Rob Liefeld's Bedrock
Image Title: Erik Larsen's Savage Dragon
Issue You Have Worked On: Usually my last one. I like to think that, as the years go by, I'm constantly getting better.

What questions are you asked most often? "Why did you leave Marvel?" I was tired of working for a system that I thought was unfair. And like most of you will find out later in life, at some point you have to put up or shut up. I decided to put up so I wouldn't have to shut up. "How much do you get paid?" All artists make a decent living. I do it for the satisfaction, not the paycheck. "How do you get your story ideas?" It's the same as a research essay for an English class. You figure out what you want to do and put it in the proper order. Comics just need more excitement than English essays.

What are your pet peeves? Insurance (any kind), lack of service given by the general public (hotels, restaurants and the like).

Biography

Todd started drawing comics at 18, shortly after he started collecting them. He got his first professional job from Steve Engelhart on Marvel/Epic's Coyote #11. But this didn't happen until he'd sent out nearly 700 packages.

"I mailed to nearly every comic company in existence," he says. "Someone finally cracked."

He can rough out a page of artwork in about 20 minutes using a non-reproduction blue pencil. Todd does very little pencilling, however, and prefers inking with a Hunt's mapping point 102 tip and black India ink. It takes him about four hours to complete a drawing.

TODD MCFARLANE

"If it weren't for comic books, I would be working in a print shop or as a graphic designer," he says. His most important accomplishments have been outside the world of comics... his marriage to Wanda, and his beautiful baby girl, Cyan. Inside comics, he's proud to be part of Image and of helping change the way comics are done.

Todd's biggest influences have been his wife, Rob Liefeld, Frank Miller, Wayne Gretzky and John Byrne.

"My ability to deliver a good product to the comic book community is my greatest strength," he says. "I'd like to be remembered as a guy who turned out some quality comics while doing a few different things... even if it wasn't the easiest road to follow. And also as someone who fought for his fellow creators!"

In 20 years, he'd still like to be causing hell to the system, whether in comics or not.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:
Coyote #11-13 (epic)
Invasion #1-2 (D.C.)
Infinity Inc. #14-37 (D.C.)
Detective Comics #576-578 (D.C.) Incredible Hulk #330-346 (Marvel)
Amazing Spiderman #298-323, #324 (Cover Only), #325, #328 (Marvel) Spiderman #1-14, #16 (Marvel)

Todd's career began in relative obscurity with his work on Coyote, Invasion, and Infinity Inc. His ability to put out quality work in a timely manner opened the door to his work on the Incredible Hulk. The highlight, from a collector's standpoint has been Hulk #340 featuring Wolverine. Todd's run on the Hulk started his incredible rise in popularity. Todd is best known for his run on Amazing Spiderman with the most popular issues being those which have featured "Venom". In 1990, Todd released an all new Spiderman series which at the time was the biggest selling comic book issue of all time. This record was later broken by fellow Image creators Rob Liefeld (X-Force) and then again by Jim Lee (X-Men). Todd's popularity can be measured by the fact that he remained the #1 fan favorite even during his hiatus between his work at Marvel Comics on Spiderman and the release of his first

Spawn issue at Image Comics.

To aspiring artists: Draw with a purpose. Repetition is boring but necessary in order to improve. Be honest with yourself in evaluating your work. Try to get feedback from those who make a living drawing comics and not those who don't.

To my fans: I'd like to shake everyone's hand and thank them for giving me this career. I'd also like them to know that no matter what we—the creators—do, the fans still have the most power in the industry. You, the public and the consumer, are the makers and breakers of careers and companies.

ability to deliver product

Rob Liefeld

Birthdate: Oct. 3, 1967
Birthplace: Fullerton, CA
Hometown: Fullerton, CA

Personal Favorites

Movies: Diehard, Sound of Music, The Princess Bride, Blade Runner
Foods: Wanda Kolomyjec's enchiladas, Carl's Jr. Santa Fe chicken sandwich
Restaurants: Carl's Jr., Mandarin Pavilion, Spoons
Athletes: Magic Johnson, Deion Sanders, Shaquille O'Neal, Jim Lee in the batting cage!
Comic Artists: Jack Kirby, Todd McFarlane, Frank Miller, John Byrne, Mike Golden, and all the Image guys!
Comic Issue: Death of Electra, Electra Lives
Comic Character: I don't have one!

What question are you asked most often? "How did you get into comics?" "How old are you?"

What are your pet peeves? Rude fans, Todd McFarlane's busy signals, cloudy weather.

Biography

"If I didn't make it in comics, I would have been a disc jockey," says Rob Liefeld. Fortunately he did. In high school, he started drawing seriously, and got his first big break at a convention when an editor agreed to look at his work. Rob's first professional job was Megaton Comics #6.

Rob spends three to six hours—depending on detail—to pencil a page. His favorite tools: an F-lead pencil and a Hunt 102 to ink his work.

Rob names starting Image Comics and creating Cable and X-Force among his most significant accomplishments. And he credits Todd McFarlane, Scott Williams and anyone else who draws comics as major career influences.

His strength lies in the creation of new characters and ideas.

ROB LIEFELD

"I'd like to be remembered as someone who changed comics for both creators and fans," Rob says, "by introducing a new brand of excitement and solid concepts that lift the industry out of the stone age."

And 20 years from now?

"Enjoying my family, having lots of fun, and still drawing, of course!"

Career Highlights:
Hawk & Dove Mini-Series #1-5 (D.C.) New Mutants #86-100 (Marvel) X-Force #1-9 (Marvel)

Rob's career was kick started with his work on the Hawk & Dove Mini-Series. Rob's career escalated when he took over the New Mutants Comics starting with the issue #86. The most sought after issue from a collector's standpoint has been New Mutants #87 with the first appearance of Cable. Rob's success on the New Mutant series ended with issue #100 and blossomed with the creation of X-Force #1 which unseeded Todd McFarlane's Spiderman as the biggest selling issue of all time. Rob has also been featured in a 501 blue jeans commercial and recently entered into an agreement with Steven Spielberg to co-produce a movie called Doom's IV.

With Rob being only 25 years old, it appears that we have only scratched the surface of this young man's creative genius.

To aspiring artists: Be enthusiastic. Be original. Work hard and meet your deadlines. Talent may get you a job, but discipline will keep it!

To my fans: Thanks for all your support. I love you!

hard work and discipline

Jim Lee
Birthdate: Aug. 11, 1964
Birthplace: South Korea
Hometown: San Diego, CA

Personal Favorites

Movies: Godfather I and II, Blade Runner, Aliens, Brazil, Sound of Music
Foods: Korean, Italian
Restaurants: Fog City Diner, Gotham, Chez Panisse, In-N-Out Burger
Athletes: Homage Studio flag football team
Comic Artists: Frank Miller, Kevin Nowlan, Milo Manira Dark Night #1-4
Comic Character: Jerry Seinfeld

What question are you asked most often? "What's this comic worth?"

What are your pet peeves? Latoya Jackson, Bruce Jenner, Suzanne Sommers commercials.

Biography

"When I realized I needed a job, I started drawing seriously," says Jim Lee. "Otherwise, I probably would have ended up an info-commercial host."

He got his start in Homage Studio's talent search. (YA RIGHT JUN.) Six

JIM LEE

years after he sent in his work, he finally got a response. Alpha Flight #51 was his first professional work and, according to Lee, it still blows!

Jim says having a family and "keeping Scott Williams in the omnipotent shadows of fame and glory" are his greatest accomplishments. In twenty years, he hopes to bench press 300 pounds... and have this questionnaire finished.

Jim's biggest career influences are the Homage and Image gangs.

"I'd like to be remembered as the guy who said the least but complained the most," he says.

Or is it the other way around?

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Alpha Flight #51-69 (Marvel), Punisher War Journal #1-19 (Excluding #16) (Marvel) ,Uncanny X-Men #248, 252, 256-258, 260-277, 286 (Marvel), X-Men #1-12 (Marvel) What The #5 (Marvel).

Jim's career began with his run on Alpha Flight and although he admits it's not some of his best work, it has remained very popular among collectors. Jim began to gain notoriety with his run on Punisher War Journal in 1988. His work on the Uncanny X-Men starting with issue #248 propelled Jim

into superstar status among comic creators. In October of 1991 Jim released an all new X-Men comic book which took the comic book marketplace by storm selling a remarkable 7,000,000 plus issues!

To aspiring artists: Always sign your work clearly, or your fans won't know who you are.

To my fans: Buy what you read and read what you buy. But if you're a speculator, buy low and sell high! Nuff said.

always sign your work

Erik Jon Larsen
Birthdate: Dec. 8, 1962
Birthplace: Minneapolis, MN
Hometown: Oakland, CA

Personal Favorites

Movies: Summer of '42
Foods: Cap'n Crunch with crunch berries, Hostess Snowballs, Coffee Crisp
Restaurants: Rosie's (local Mexican joint), Tommy's (local hofbrau), Zachary's (pizza)
Athletes: Oakland A's
Comic Artists: Kirby, Kane, Simonson, Miller
Comic Issue: Hulk #156, Thor #337, What If #3
Comic Character: The Dragon

What question are you asked most often? "Do you draw like that?" I hold my pencil funny, and by the way, the answer is yes!

What are your pet peeves? Having my name spelled wrong. Answering questionnaires.

Biography

If not for comics, Erik Jon Larsen says he would have been a dishwasher, ditch digger or a tedious, menial laborer. He started drawing seriously at

ERIK LARSEN

birth, and broke into comics when he published a fanzine, Graphic Fantasy. After reading it, Megaton publisher Gary Carlson contacted him and the rest was history. His first professional work was Megaton #1, Nov. 1983.

"Getting married and Savage Dragon 1-3 are my greatest accomplishments," Larsen says. He spends four hours on full pencils and uses a Mars Lumograph 2H Clo-erase non-photo pencil. He joined Image so he could have complete control over his creations, with no editorial interference.

In twenty years, he'd like to be doing Savage Dragon #240. And he wants to be remembered as "a burned out old hack who's totally lost it... whining about the new young punks who are outselling him."

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Doom Patrol #6-15 (D.C.) Amazing Spiderman #287, #329-350 (Marvel) Punisher #21-25, (Marvel) Spiderman #15, #18-23 (Marvel).

Erik has shown tremendous versatility over the course of his career, working on a variety of characters and books. Erik gained his popularity during his tenure on Amazing Spiderman and Spiderman. What makes Erik's career rise so special is the fact that in both cases on Spiderman he followed a successful run by another artist, Todd McFarlane, and continued to establish sales records utilizing his own personal style and rendition of the Spiderman character.

To aspiring artists: Learn to draw... learn to draw everything. Drawing comics is a very demanding profession. Take classes, study anatomy and perspective. Learn to draw!

To my fans: Thanks for your support. I'm having a hell of a time doing these comics and I hope you like them!

Erik Jon Larsen

learn to draw everything!

Jim Valentino
Birthdate: Oct. 28, 1952
Birthplace: Bronx, NY
Hometown: Bronx, NY

Personal Favorites

Movies: Casablanca, 2001, Blade Runner, Superman
Foods: Italian, American
Restaurants: Good ones!
Athletes: Marilyn Chambers, Seka
Comic Artists: Bill Watterson
Comic Issues: Superman #149, Vaughn Bode's The Man
Comic Character: Calvin and Hobbes

What question are you asked most often? "This one!"

What are your pet peeves? I don't like pets that peeve, thank you.

Biography

Jim, who says we can't print what he would be doing if it weren't for his career in comics, started drawing seriously at 22. He broke into comics through self-publishing (underground). It takes him between three hours and three days to pencil a page; he uses a Niji Grip 600 .5mm pencil.

"Fathering my sons, Aaron and Joel Michael, is my most important

JIM VALENTINO

accomplishment," Valentino says. He lists Ken Kreuger, Rob Liefeld and his father as his biggest career influences. And he says it's not for him to decide what his most outstanding talent, ability or skill is.

"In the twilight of my career, if I am remembered at all I'll consider myself thrice blessed," he says.

In 20 years, he'd like to be sitting on a beach in Tahiti, nursing a beer and watching young girls.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:
Normal Man, Guardians of the Galaxy #1-28 (Marvel) What If #12, 41 (Marvel).

Jim started out his career through self publishing (Normal Man) and has returned to his grass roots with his work at Image Comics. Jim has shown tremendous versatility in his career with credits in a multitude of books too numerous to mention. Jim gained his popularity with his run on Guardians of the Galaxy.

To aspiring artists: Work hard and persevere. Don't give up, no matter what. If you want a job in this field, you have to want it so badly that no one can talk you out of it. Tenacity does count. Learn, grow, and most important, hang in there!

To my fans: Your encouragement keeps me humble, your enthusiasm keeps me moving forward. Thanks for your support.

tenacity does count!

Marc Silvestri
Birthdate: March 29, 1959
Birthplace: West Palm Beach, FL
Hometown: San Diego, CA

Personal Favorites

Movies: 2001, Forbidden Planet, Citizen Kane, Jaws, Aliens
Foods: Anything Italian
Restaurants: Vito, in Santa Monica, CA
Athletes: Da Bears!
Comic Artists: John Buscema and Jack Kirby, a tie!
Comic Issues: FF #108-110, guest starring Annihilus, drawn by Kirby and Buscema
Comic Characters: The Fantastic Four

What question are you asked most often? "When are you coming home?"

What are your pet peeves? Holes in my socks and deadlines.

MARC SILVESTRI

Biography

"If I hadn't made it as an inker, I would have been a letterer," says Marc Silvestri, who started drawing seriously in June 1992.

"My big break came when I blackmailed D.C. Comics," he laughs.

Marc uses a long, pointy pencil and doesn't consider a page complete until someone tells him to stop—like his editor!

He says filling out this questionnaire is his most important accomplishment to date (thanks, Marc!) and he considers his greatest talent his ability to look like he's working when he's actually sleeping.

When asked what he'd like to be doing in 20 years, he said, "Seeing Cyberforce/The Movie, Part 5."

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

Web of Spiderman #16-22 (Marvel) Wolverine #31-57 (Marvel) Uncanny X-Men #220-247, #249-251, #253-255, #259 (Marvel).

Marc's career in comic books spans over 15 years. His contribution on the uncanny X-Men books includes issue #222 featuring Sabertooth and the Fall of the Mutants series. One other issue of note is uncanny X-Men #244; the first appearance of Jubilee.

To aspiring artists: Practice, practice, practice. And when you get tired, practice some more!

To my fans: Hi. How's it going?

practice, practice, practice

Whilce Portacio
Birthdate: Early 60s
Birthplace: Philippines
Hometown: San Diego, CA

Personal Favorites

Movies: Five Fingers of Death, Star Wars, Aladdin
Foods: Mexican—especially nachos, liver, pasta, shrimp
Restaurants: Alberto's, Roberto's, Gilberto's
Athletes: Joe Mendoza, Kristi Yamaguchi, Kristy Y., Kristi
Comic Artists: Bill Watterson
Comic Issue: Dark Knight
Comic Character: Calvin and Hobbes

What question are you asked most often? "Where is Wetworks?" "What's your name?" "Are you Japanese?" "Are you sure you don't have a twin brother?"

What are your pet peeves? Kristi Yamaguchi isn't on television often enough.

Biography

"If it weren't for comic books, I would have been a mercenary, a race car crasher, or Kristi's bodyguard," says Whilce Portacio, referring to one of his favorite athletes!

Whilce started drawing seriously when he began getting paid for it, and

WHILCE PORTACIO

his first professional work was Longshot #1. He got his big break in San Diego when Carl Potts saw his work and believed in it.

"Being true to myself and doing things my way are my greatest accomplishments," Portacio says. He lists Jack Kirby, Gil Kane, Neil Adams, Frank Herbert, Marion Zimmer Bradley, William Gibson, Orson Scott Card and David Brin as his biggest influences.

"My top skill is conning people into thinking I have talent," he says.

Twenty years from now, he'd like to have Wetworks #1 finished and direct a movie about life in the Philippines. He'd like to be remembered as Whilce—not Will, Willy, Willsee, Willis or Willsee what's-his-name.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:
Strike Force Morituri #1, 10, 16, and 17 (Marvel) Star Wars #107 (Marvel) Longshot #1 thru #6 (Marvel) X-Factory #63-#69 (Marvel) Uncanny X-Men #201 #281-290 (Marvel) Alpha Flight #40-54 (Marvel) Punisher #8-20 (Marvel) What the #5 (Marvel).

Whilce's popularity began to skyrocket after his work on the Longshot mini series. His ten issue run of Uncanny X-Men is a must for all portacio fans!!!

To aspiring artists: Look carefully at everything that catches your eye (see favorite athlete), and wonder why it attracts you. Learn from life... and in lieu of that, learn from the movies.

To my fans: Thanks for believing in me and the fantasy that we in this industry create.

learn from life!

Brett Booth

Birthdate:
Nov. 3, 1972
Birthplace:
Tampa, FL
Hometown:
Davie , FL

Personal Favorites

Movies: Terminator 1 and 2, Aliens
Foods: Chicken, steak, pork roast, french fries
Restaurants: KFC, In-and-Out
Athletes: Harold Miner, Glenn Rice, Steve Smith, Frank Long, Rony Siekely, Michael Jordan, Charles Barkley, Scottie Pippen
Comic Artists: Jim Lee
Comic Character: Backlash

What question are you asked most often? Are you drawing Wild C.A.T.S #0?

What are your pet peeves? Bad drivers, religious fanatics

Biography

Brett credits Homage Studios talent search for his start in comics, and his first professional work was a pin-up for Wild C.A.T.S #0. He began drawing in the ninth grade, and if not for comics, Brett would have pursued a career in paleontology.

It takes Brett three to four hours to pencil a page using a .03mm mechanical pencil.

My greatest accomplishment is bringing Backlash into the Image universe, he says. His biggest influences are Jim Lee, Marc, Whilce, Scott, Art Adams and Todd McFarlane.

In 20 years or so, Brett would like to be relaxing on a tropical island while others do my work for me.

To aspiring artists: Work on backgrounds and perspective.

To my fans: Write in for a Backlash mini-series!

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Telephone _____

pencilling one comic a year

Biography

I sent samples to the Homage talent search, and a week and a half later, I was working on the Homage swimsuit issue, says Jeff.

He started drawing five years ago, and figures he would have been an actor or director if comics hadn t worked out.

It takes Jeff at least one day to pencil a page using an S Pentel QE405 mechanical pencil. Jim Lee, Art Adams, Todd McFarlane, Steven Spielberg, George Lucas and Walt Disney are his biggest influences.

I d like to be remembered as someone who played a part in pioneering something new and exciting in comics, he says. Not just one who followed the pack.

To aspiring artists:
Become a drawing fanatic. Draw every micro-second of the day. Attend as many conventions as possible and talk with the artists. And most important, draw on paper that s the right size!

To my fans:
Fans?... Where?. Are they here?

Jeffery Campbell

Scott

Joe Chiodo

Birthdate:
Jan. 22, 1958
Birthplace:
Sharon, PA
Hometown:
San Diego, CA

Personal Favorites

Movies: Anything and everything!
Foods: All juices.
Restaurants: Thai, Italian, Indian
Athletes: Hulk Hogan, Pele
Comic Artists: Simon Bisley
Comic Issue: Megaton Man #1
Comic Character: Lobo

What question are you asked most often? What media do you use?

What are your pet peeves? Hulk Hogan, Skippy

Biography

Joe, who would have been a draftsman if it weren't for comics, started drawing at age 14. His professional career began at 21, doing covers and posters for Marvel.

They finally gave me a graphic novel, he says.

Joe's greatest influences are Bill Sienkiewicz, Jim Lee, Whilce Portacio, Marc Silvestri, Scott Williams and Biz.

To aspiring artists: See things through your own eyes, as reality is, so you can exaggerate it on your own.

To my fans: Don't praise mediocrity.

[redacted]

Johnson, Michael Jordan

Comic Artists: All the good ones!

Comic Issue: To hard to narrow it down to one!

Comic Character: See above!

What question are you asked most often? How did you break into comics?

What are your pet [illegible]? people, bad drivers (like Marc Silvestri)

Biography

Scott, who would have been a professional bum if it weren't for comics, started drawing at age 18.

I broke into comics by sending samples to independent comic companies, he says. Scott's first professional work was Power-Factor #1, an eight-page back-up.

It takes Scott a full day to pencil a page using an F-lead.

He can't single out one specific person as a career influence, but he says,

Basically, I try to learn from everyone!

He feels his ability to recognize his weaknesses is his greatest attribute, and would like to be remembered as an outstanding talent.

To aspiring artists: Be honest with yourself.

To my fans: Enjoy comics for comics. Don't get caught up in the collecting/investment side or you'll lose the enjoyment.

Scott James

Clark [redacted]

Dan Fraga

Birthdate:
June 19, 1973
Birthplace:
Walnut Creek, CA
Hometown:
Pacheco, CA

Personal Favorites

Movies: Rocky 1-5, Aliens, Taxi Driver
Foods: Pasta
Restaurants: Old Spaghetti Factory, McDonald's
Athletes: New Orleans Saints, Cleveland Indians
Comic Artists: Arthur Adams
Comic Issue: New Mutants Summer Special #1
Comic Character: Cabbot

What question are you asked most often? When are you going to be done with that page, Dan?

What are your pet peeves? I don't have any pets!

Biography

My greatest accomplishment is being the youngest penciller for Image Comics, says Dan Fraga. And my most outstanding skill is annoying Marat!

If it weren't for comics, Fraga says he would have been a disc jockey or a bum. But he began drawing seriously at 13, and Rob Liefeld gave him his big break on Youngblood #0.

It takes Dan "too long" to pencil a page, and he uses a Koh-I-Noor Select-O-Matic 11 with 2H lead.

His greatest influences have been Art Adams, Rob Liefeld, Todd McFarlane, John Byrne and Jack Kirby. In 20 years, he'd like to be drawing comics, playing with his kids and remembered as the young punk who showed them all.

To aspiring artists: If you've got it, flaunt it. Go for what you want. Don't ever give up. And listen!

To my fans: Hey, thanks for looking at my stuff. Hopefully, I will continue to surprise you with new, and even better stuff!

July 22, 1970

Dallas, TX

Dallas, TX

Terminator 1 and 2, The Empire Strikes Back Raiders of the Lost Ark

Pasta, Tex-Mex

Any fast food joint that causes excessive heartburn

Any Dallas Cowboy

Jim Lee

New Mutants Special Section #1

Cerebus

Why the hell are you drawing comics when you have a degree in computer science?

Long, drawn out questionnaires

Alex began drawing six years ago and caught his first big break through the Homage talent search His first professional work was Wild C A T S #0, and it takes him about one day to ink a page using a Hunt 102 Crow Quill

My biggest accomplishment is completing my computer science degree, he says But my best skill is irritating the hell out of Brett Booth

His biggest influences are Jim Lee, Michael Golden, Art Adams, Terry Austin, Scott Williams and George Lucas

In 20 years I d like to be doing computer animation for Terminator 5 at ILM, and drawing an occasional comic, he says And he d like to be remembered as someone who won a lot of awards

Mind meld with Jim Lee s brain and steal all his abilities

Hi, Mom and Dad!

Alex Garner

Keith Giffen

Birthdate:
Nov. 30, 1952
Birthplace:
Queens, NY
Hometown:
Jersey City, NJ

Personal Favorites

Movies: The Ruling Class, Near Dark, Eraserhead
Foods: Hot dogs with peanut butter, various Tex-Mex, Mexican
Restaurants: Any place without a dress code
Athletes: That agony of defeat guy from Wide World of Sports
Comic Artists: Alex Toth
Comic Issue: FF Annual #5
Comic Character: Mr. A

What question are you asked most often? Now why would you want to go and do something like that?

What are your pet peeves? Oh, I dunno... Life in general, I guess

Biography

Keith would have been a lumberjack if it weren't for comics, but he received his big break by the grace of Bill Mantlo and John Romita Sr.

His first professional work was The Sword and the Star, a back-up feature in Marvel Black and White. He draws an average of two pages a day using various Staedtler pens and a beat-up old brush.

My biggest influences are Jack Kirby, Alex Toth, Jose Munoz, my landlord, the phone company and the IRS, he says. He'd like to be remembered as a guy who was good for a few laughs.

And in 20 years? I'd like to be having a great time making kids lives a living hell!

To aspiring artists: Lighten up. If it ain't fun to do, it ain't worth doing.

To my fans: A heartfelt thanks!

Birthdate:
Sept. 13, 1947
Birthplace:
Iron Mountain, MI
Hometown:
Florence, WI

Personal Favorites

Movies:
Casablanca, Three Musketeers, Raiders of the Lost Ark
Foods: Chili, but not if I'm going to associate with humans!
Restaurants: Club Felix, Crystal Falls, MI. O'Neil's, New York. Unicorn Pub, Seattle
Athletes: The last one I recognized was Warren Spahn (?), pitcher for the Milwaukee Braves. I thought Garth Brooks was a third baseman
Comic Artists:
Johnny Carson
Comic Issue: The presidential elections
Comic Character:
Richard Nixon he has to be a Muppet. I'm sure he's got somebody's hand up his *!~@!

What question are you asked most often? How did you break into comics?

What are your pet peeves? People who say "calvary" instead of "cavalry." Jesus didn't ride with Custer.

Biography

Mike, who wanted to be an architect, says he broke into comics with a crowbar and a [illegible].

His first professional work was Aquaman. It takes him one to three hours to pencil a page using any kind of graphite pencil with a pink thing on the end!

Creating the illusion that I've been working all these years helping to pioneer independent publishing has been my biggest accomplishment, Mike says. His biggest influence was Bailey Phelps, who told him,

"Be a cartoonist. They only work two or three days a week and they make millions."

Mike's greatest talent lies in history telling, and he'd like to be remembered as a wonderful storyteller and a stud muffin! Actually, he'd <u>really</u> like to be remembered for the time he walked into negotiations at First Comics, laid a loaded .45 on the conference table and said "Okay, let's deal!"

In twenty years he'd like to be making lust to a beautiful woman, painting animals, writing and drawing... all at the same time!

To aspiring artists:
You should become a cartoonist. They only work two or

(cont. on next page)

Mike Grell

[illegible] And for God's sake, don't try to learn to draw by copying comic book artists. It makes for a pretty

[illegible] ose, like Miss

To my fans: Next time you feel [illegible]

deathbed with a fever of 109.3 to [illegible] And oh yeah, thanks for the houses, cars, horses, dogs, the food and the clothes!!

Mike Heisler

Birthdate:
Oct. 22, 1962
Birthplace:
Pittsburgh, PA
Hometown:
Pittsburgh, PA

Personal Favorites

Movies: Touch of Evil, Blade Runner, Raging Bull
Foods: Beef and beef by-products
Athletes: Mario Lemieux
Comic Artists: Jack Kirby
Comic Issue: New Gods #8
Comic Character: Superman

What question are you asked most often? When is this book (fill in your favorite title) coming out?

Biography

Mike began lettering in the summer of 1986, and his first professional work was an Aliens World story (he doesn't remember the title).

Getting into comics was blind luck, he says. Otherwise, I would have been a house painter.

Mike spends about an hour lettering a page; he uses a #107 Hawk Quill. My greatest ability is wasting every possible minute of lead time before a deadline, he says. And in 20 years, he'd like to be sleeping on a beach.

Mike names his greatest influences as Sam Rosen, Gaspar Saladino, Jim Novak, Bill Oakley and that old, old, old man, Tom Orzechowski. He'd like to be remembered as someone who quit working in comics before he turned into a drooling idiot.

To aspiring artists: Be your own worst critic. It's the one thing that will force you to keep improving.

To my fans: I've never met a nicer group of people.

Birthdate:
July 23, 1962

Birthplace
Grande Praire, Alberta Canada

Hometown.
Grande Praire, Alberta, Canada

Personal favorites

Movies T2, Jaws
Food Burgers
Restaurants
Burger joints
Actresses Don't have any
Comic Character
Incredible Hulk

What question are you asked most often? This one!

No.... When is Pitt coming out? Are you a John Byrne clone?

What are your pet peeves? Erasing pencils

Biography

In 1985, Dale was out of work and needed a job. Arcel Comics happened to be in town and liked what he had to offer. His first professional work was Samurai #13.

Dale spends four to five hours penciling a page; he uses a blue pencil. He says inking is his greatest strength.

If it weren't for comics, I would have been a bad-ass bass player kicking butt, he says. Or a butcher. He'd like to be remembered as a bad-ass bass player!

To aspiring artists: Don't be too proud to start out with a smaller company and work your way up to the big two... or is it three? Or four? And draw, draw, draw, draw!

To my fans: Hello out there!

Dale Keown

Marat Mychaels

Birthdate:
Jan. 12, 1972
Birthplace:
Kiev, Russia
Hometown:
Los Angeles, CA

Personal Favorites

Movies: Highlander, Star Wars trilogy, Terminator
Foods: Chinese, chicken sandwiches
Restaurants: Winter Garden, Castaway's, Taco Bell
Athletes: Magic Johnson, Shawn Kemp, Ronnie Lott, Joe Montana, Ricky Watters, Kendall Gill, Larry Johnson
Comic Artists: John Byrne, George Perez, Paul Smith
Comic Issue: New Teen Titans #1

[redacted]

Battlestone

What question are you asked most often? How did you break into comics?

What are your pet peeves? Answering these questionnaires

Biography

Marat began drawing in the seventh grade, and started his career as Rob Liefeld's assistant. His first professional piece was a ghost job on X-Force #5.

If it weren't for comics, I would have been homeless, he says.

Marat uses an F-lead, and it takes him one day to pencil a page.

My most important accomplishment? Putting up with Dan Fraga every day, he laughs. Just kidding, Dan. He names his biggest influence as Rob Liefeld and considers his greatest strength having good control of the pencil.

[redacted]

like to be drawing comics and producing or directing a movie. Marat would like to be remembered as someone who made an impact on the comic book field.

To aspiring artists:
Draw, draw, draw. It's the only way to improve.

To my fans:
Thanks! I hope someday I get good enough to deserve all of your support.

ing phones, nega-

Biography

Danny started king seriously ut a year and a alf ago. His first professional work was for Town and Country Surf Designs/Mattel, and drum head designs for Ratt and

him about seven hours to comple page, depending on detail.

My greatest talents ar

illiots as inking ols, and it takes

Danny Miki

Brian Murray

Birthdate:
April 5, 1960
Birthplace:
Franklin Square, NY
Hometown:
Franklin Square, NY

Personal Favorites

Movies: Blade Runner, Wrath of Khan, Aliens, Philadelphia Story, Rear Window
Foods: Pollo Porettio, fire-roasted tomato soup
Restaurants: Birra Poretti s, El Torito Grill, Spiga la Trattoria
Athletes: I don t really follow sports
Comic Artists: Mike Golden, Frank Miller, Barry Windsor Smith, Old Neal Adams
Comic Issue: Superman vs. Mohammad Ali, Avengers Annual #10
Comic Character: Batman, Nexus, Captain Jean-Luc Picad

What question are you asked most often? Why is Supreme #1 marked Volume 2? Because in Supreme #1, Supreme is returning from a 50-year star trek, and before that, he had a 45-year golden age career!

What are your pet peeves? There are only 24 hours in one day.

Biography

Brian, who started drawing when he was 14, caught his big break by sending black and white copies of his pencils to any and every publisher he could think of. Mike Baron responded first, followed by Continuity Comics, who gave him his first professional job on Armor #1 featuring Urth 4.

If it weren t for comics, he says, I would have been a magician or a drummer.

Brian spends three to four hours penciling a page with an F-lead.

It doesn t smear, yet it copies well, he says.

Brian s greatest accomplishments are getting married, buying a house and building his business, and his big influences are his father, his teachers Pat Murray, Bob Miller and Dr. Nicolas Bonam, and Neal Adams and Mike Golden.

In 20 years, he d like to be drawing comics, creating on a computer, teaching and spending time with his family.

I d like to be remembered as a friendly, hard-working, fun individual, who is a good husband, father and son, says Brian.

To aspiring artists: Draw everything! If you love drawing comics and you work diligently, you will succeed. Don t be discouraged... every artist has a couple hundred bad drawings they have to get out of

(cont. on next page)

Tom Orzechowski

Norm Rapmund

Birthdate:
Feb. 17, 1968
Birthplace:
Inglewood, CA
Hometown:
Placentia, CA

Personal Favorites

Movies: Star Wars trilogy
Foods: Steak, prime rib
Restaurants: Black Angus, Denny's
Athletes: Never had any!
Comic Artists: Rob Liefeld
Comic Issue: Uncanny X-Men #137
Comic Character: Punisher

What question are you asked most often? How long did it take you to grow your hair that long?

What are your pet peeves? Liars, people pulling my hair

Biography

Norm started drawing seriously in 1992.

My big break came when I showed my work to a comic store owner who, in turn, showed it to Rob Liefeld, he says. Two months later I was hired as an inker.

Norm uses a Hunt 102 Crow Quill, and it takes him four to eight hours to ink a page.

He lists Rob Liefeld, John Byrne and Scott Williams as his biggest career influences. And if it weren't for his career inking comics, he says he would have liked to own a comic book store.

I'd like to spend the next 20 years drawing comics at Extreme Studios and be remembered as the Mosh Man Master of Super Heroes, Norm says.

To aspiring artists: There are so many people who want to be pencillers, why not try inking? It's fun!

To my fans: I never knew I had any!

Birthdate:
Mid-20th century
Birthplace:
Texas
Hometown:
San Diego, CA

Personal Favorites

Movies: Ghandi, I Spit on Your Grave
Foods: Chocolate chip cookie dough, Twinkie middles
Restaurants: Jack in the Box (pre-e. coli era)
Athletes: Junior Seau, Marc Silvestri, Terry Wiegel
Comic Artists: Too obvious a question!
Comic Issue: Too stupid a question!
Comic Character: Rob Liefeld

What question are you asked most often? What penpoint do you use? Who's your favorite inker, Art Thibert or Dan Panosian?

What are your pet peeves? Joe Chiodo's puns, Joe Mendoza's forehand, Bill Clinton's tax reforms

Biography

Scott says if it hadn't been for his career as an inker, he would have been an original art dealer for Jim Lee. But he got his foot in the door as Whilce Portacio's assistant. Whilce was late on deadline (What a surprise, Scott says) and needed someone to bail his butt out of the fire, as usual!

My most important accomplishment is the birth of Christopher Scott Williams, he says. He lists his biggest influences as Neal Adams, Jack Kirby, Jennifer Williams, Jim Lee, Whilce Portacio, Klaus Janson, Frank Miller and John Tighe.

Scott says his greatest talent is being able to belch and flatulate simultaneously. In the twilight of his career, he'd like to be remembered as the man who single-handedly created and carried Jim Lee and Whilce Portacio to fame, glory and fortune while selflessly remaining in their omnipotent shadows, a crushed and broken yet ever-faithful servant and inker.

To aspiring artists: Do not learn to draw. Save yourself countless hours of hard work and frustration and learn to swipe from your favorite Image artists!

To my fans: Inkers are people too!

Scott Williams

Chance Wolf

Birthdate:
May 20, 1963
Birthplace:
Pasco, WA
Hometown:
Richland, WA

Personal Favorites

Movies: Diehard, Deliverance, Grapes of Wrath
Foods: Pizza, Coco Puffs, Cap n Crunch
Restaurants: Domino s, Subway, Pizza Hut
Athletes: Super Dave Osborne, Al Simmons
Comic Artists: Dale Keown (great babes!)
Comic Issue: Amazing Spiderman #120-121 (Death of Gwen Stacy)
Comic Character: Shadow Hawk (No Spawn! No, No!.. Pitt)

What question are you asked most often? Do you still paint signs? No, no, no! Not a chance (no pun intended)!

What are your pet peeves? Alarm clocks, thick ink, cold coffee

Biography

I would have been a magician the Brian and Chance Magical Mystery Tour if it weren t for comics, says Chance Wolf, who started drawing in the fifth grade.

He got his first break when he met the real Al Simmons at a convention in Portland, Oregon, and his first professional job was painting the Spawn Mobiles. Jim Valentino hired him on the spot. His first professional job (non-sports car) was inking Shadow Hawk #3 and lettering Pitt #1 at the same time.

My most important accomplishment has been inking Shadow Hawk #3, he says. It was my first job and I was scared as hell! He lists his biggest influences as Todd McFarlane (and I m not schmoozin) and Jim Valentino (a very supportive man). He d like to be drawing Image comics and doing magic shows for the next 20 years.

Chance says his greatest skill is his ability to create kick butt sound effects that make Dale Keown smile. And he d be happy to be simply remembered.

To aspiring artists: Never, never, never let anyone tear down your dreams. Hang with positive people and draw, draw, draw!

To my fans: I m new, and I m giving you my heart and soul. I thank you for your support.